



AMERICA'S  
STATE  
PARKS

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# Alaska State Parks Youth Ambassador Program

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## Policy and Guidelines Manual

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Updated December 2011

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## What is the Youth Ambassador Program?

The America's State Parks Youth Ambassador campaign was launched in 2010 as a collaborative effort to promote young people getting outdoors and generating support for state parks. Through this program, young adults are appointed as their state's Youth Ambassadors. These Ambassadors take initiative to travel throughout their state parks and document their outdoor experiences through videos, blogs, and photo essays.

The Youth Ambassador Program is a youth led movement for promoting the outdoors to other young adults. Youth Ambassadors share their passion for the outdoors with the hope of inspiring others to get outside and experience what the state parks have to offer. In order to do this, Ambassadors work with State Park staff and take advantage of social media with the sole intention of reaching out to young people who have not yet developed a connection with outdoor recreation.

These park Ambassadors decide how they wish to “market” their parks to other young people. They learn to make executive decisions on what to advertise and how to advertise effectively. What the Ambassadors choose to highlight then is posted online at [www.AmericasStateParks.org](http://www.AmericasStateParks.org) and is made available for the public to access.

This manual will further explain details about the program, the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Ambassador, and detail how to get involved.

## Interested in Becoming a Youth Ambassador?

### Esprit de Corps, what is it?

Esprit de Corps literally means *Group Spirit*. It is a feeling that develops over time when people learn to work effectively as a team toward a common goal. Esprit de Corps is an integral part of the America's State Parks Youth Ambassador experience and will foster team success.

### Becoming a Youth Ambassador:

- In order to be eligible to be a Youth Ambassador you must be between the ages of 16 and 26.
- You must be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.
- You must register as a volunteer in Alaska State Parks. (See page 13)
- You must sign a waiver of liability form. If you are under 18 years of age, you must have your parents sign the release form as well. (see page 12)
- You must sign a video/image release form on page 17. If you are under 18 years of age, you must have your parents sign the release form as well.
- You will be required to create a short biography and include a current picture of yourself.
- You are responsible for all travel expenses.
- Identifiable clothing will be provided.

- You must have rudimentary knowledge of the internet with the ability to post items as required (See *Navigating America's State Parks Website* on page 10 for information on posting items). This includes social networking sites. i.e.: Twitter, Facebook, MySpace.

## The Role of a Youth Ambassador

The role of the Youth Ambassador is open to creativity. Youth Ambassadors go into the parks and document through photos, video, and writing, what they find to be interesting. They may want to record themselves hiking or skiing different trails, boating, climbing, fishing, or otherwise enjoying all of the activities that the parks have to offer. They can help advertise for, and work with, interpretive programs, or even create some of their own events.

The role of the Youth Ambassador is to raise awareness about Alaska State Parks. They may attend interpretive programs, seasonal and other special events, and perhaps accompany the rangers on their daily responsibilities. For the most part, the general public has no idea how much effort is required in managing a park. The Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to showcase this through social networks and promoting park events.

In order for them to effectively advertise the parks, Youth Ambassadors are encouraged to meet with the park staff and collaborate on new ideas.

## Rights and Responsibilities of a Youth Ambassador

Alaska State Parks is looking for the best and brightest outdoor enthusiasts and advocates to share the stories of the parks with the public. As an Ambassador begins to articulate their vision of Alaska's State Parks, he or she will receive assistance and direction from the park staff.

### Youth Ambassador Rights:

- Each Ambassador has the right to be respected.
- Be treated as a co-worker.
- Receive suitable assignments with consideration for your personal preference, temperament, life experience, and education.
- Comprehensive and effective training, orientation, and materials, so you can perform your role safely and successfully.
- Gain valuable knowledge about your state park, including information about mission, policies, procedures, staff, and programs.
- Sound guidance and direction from park staff who are experienced, well informed, patient, and thoughtful.
- Have a part in planning activities and feel free to make suggestions.
- Recognition and expressions of appreciation.

### Youth Ambassador Responsibilities:

- For this position you must volunteer a **minimum of 10 hours a month** and upload **at least one blog to the America's State Parks website per month**.
- You must keep track of all of your volunteering hours as Youth Ambassadors and report those to the volunteer coordinator or the Youth Ambassador Program Coordinator.
- Maintain regular communication with the Alaska State Parks Volunteer Coordinator

- Ask questions, communicate ideas, and update the coordinator on project progress.
- Maintain regular communication with park staff to discuss ideas, learn about the park (via phone, e-mail, etc.), and be notified of upcoming events.
- Carry out duties promptly and reliably.
- Participate in all orientation and training programs.
- Be accountable on days that you have agreed to be somewhere and to stay as long as you have committed to stay.
- Perform your role as described. If you need help, ask your park staff for information or ask your Volunteer Coordinator.
- Communicate any problems or suggestions with State Parks staff.
- Meet and interface with your park's *Friends of* group and other park volunteers.
- Commit to tobacco, alcohol, and drug free involvement.
- Abide by park rules, laws, and regulations.
- Adhere to prudent safety precautions and wear appropriate safety and cold weather gear when doing activities such as (but not limited to) boating, snow boarding, biking, or rock or ice climbing.
- Select assignments that you are physically capable of performing and let your park-contact know if you feel uncomfortable with any job that you are asked to do.
- Ambassadors will wear Alaska State Park logo items.
- Use reasonable judgment in making decisions when no policy is apparent and consult with your park-contact if no policy is available.

### **Responsibilities of Your Volunteer Coordinator:**

- Insure all necessary paperwork is completed.
- Insure that you understand the America's State Park website, the Alaska State Parks website, how to cover events and attractions in the parks, and other general information.
- Scheduling the Ambassadors activities and training.
- Provide you with Alaska State Parks logo clothing and appropriate equipment.
- Supervision of the Ambassadors as required.
- Program orientation and water safety training.

### **Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility for Recipients of Services**

Alaska State Parks is committed to the fair and equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Reasonable accommodation is the key to this non-discrimination policy. It is the policy of Alaska State Parks to reasonably accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities when such accommodations are directly related to performing the essential functions of a position, competing for a position, or to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of

employment. This policy applies to all applicants, employees, and employees seeking promotional opportunities.

### **Appropriate Safety Precautions for Volunteers**

1. Accident Reporting: Ambassadors must immediately report all personal injuries, vehicle accidents and incidents to the program's coordinator.
2. In Case of Injury: All human blood and body fluids are to be treated as if they were infectious for HIV, Hepatitis B and other blood-borne pathogens. Members should immediately inform park staff if they believe they have been exposed.
3. First Aid: Ambassadors should know the location of first aid kits. A prompt first aid response can keep most injuries and medical situations from growing worse. Every worksite should have an emergency medical plan.
4. Maintenance: Safety in the workplace requires keeping the environment free of hazards that arise from lack of regular maintenance and servicing. Ambassadors should report any work conditions that are potential safety hazards.
5. Office Safety: Office work is not necessarily hazardous, but accidents do happen! Most are preventable if common hazards are identified and preventive measures are taken. Site supervisors will go over common hazards and ways to avoid them.
6. Ambassadors should learn the numbers to call for fire or medical emergency.
7. Lifting: Most back injuries result from improper lifting. Staff will provide information on how to lift properly to protect against back injury.

### **Compliance with Drug Free Work Act**

It is the policy of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to maintain a drug-free workplace. Alcohol/drug abuse in the workplace has many detrimental effects on any organization, its employees, and its volunteers. Alcohol/drug abuse impacts morale, lowers productivity, causes safety violations, and increases health care costs. The Division is committed to maintaining a work environment free from illegal drugs, alcohol and other prohibited substances. The Division has an obligation to its paid and unpaid staff members, and the public, to take reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent drug and alcohol abuse by all staff members in and affecting the workplace.

#### ***Policy:***

- A. All Youth Ambassadors are expected to be free from the influence of drugs or alcohol while they are on duty.
- B. Prohibited Practices - Consistent with the commitment stated above, it is the policy that all Ambassadors shall not:
  1. Report to work under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
  2. Possess or consume alcoholic beverages while on duty without authorization;
  3. Possess or consume any illegal, non-prescription drugs while on duty;
  4. Place, carry, or allow to be placed any unauthorized alcoholic beverages in any State vehicle or equipment; or

5. Sell or provide drugs or alcohol to any other employee or to any person while such employee is on duty.

## **How You Benefit From Being a Youth Ambassador**

Volunteering does a lot more than just look good on a resume. Many young adults utilize opportunities such as the Youth Ambassador Program to get involved with their communities, develop communication and physical skills, and to network for future job opportunities.

The Youth Ambassador Program offers many personal and professional benefits to young adults. This program encourages young people to get outside and involved with unfamiliar experiences. It provides a means to develop healthy and active lifestyles, and can build skills and confidence. It encourages confidence, decision making, and personal growth.

The Youth Ambassador program is also about marketing. The Ambassadors learn how to reach and influence certain stakeholders. In any business, the skill of being able to distinguish and target a certain group is essential. The contacts that are made through this position – both inside and outside the parks– will provide the Ambassador with excellent references and professional contacts.

## **Benefits of Being a Alaska State Park Volunteer**

Volunteering for the Youth Ambassador Program is a volunteer position for Alaska State Parks, and volunteering for Alaska's Parks offers many of its own incentives.

### **Why Volunteer in Alaska State Parks?**

- To build your knowledge, skills, and abilities regarding outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship,
- To help make your community a better place to live,
- To build your resume and future career contacts,
- To have fun and make friends,
- To meet others with similar interests and build lasting relationships,
- Engage in new challenges and opportunities,
- To build self-esteem and confidence.

## **Staying Connected in the Youth Ambassador Program**

There are two Facebook groups that the Youth Ambassadors are encouraged to join that will help them connect with other Ambassadors. In these groups, Youth Ambassadors can share their accomplishments, ask questions, challenge each other, share ideas, etc.

### **America's State Park Youth Ambassadors Group:**

([http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_183658554978144&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_183658554978144&ap=1))

### **Alaska Youth Ambassador Group:**

([http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_183658554978144&ap=1#%21/home.php?sk=group\\_112593915485696&ap=1](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_183658554978144&ap=1#%21/home.php?sk=group_112593915485696&ap=1))

America's State Parks home website : <http://www.americasstateparks.org/>

If you need to contact Alaska State Parks, please contact

Lynn Wibbenmeyer, the Volunteer Coordinator, at [lynn.wibbenmeyer@alaska.gov](mailto:lynn.wibbenmeyer@alaska.gov) 907-269-8708 or

Darcy B. Harris, the Alaska State Parks Trails Program Coordinator at [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov)

907-269-8699

## **Navigating the America's State Parks Website**

The following information is to help you navigate the America's State Parks website and upload content. There is a YouTube video that provides a visual on how to upload content on to the site. The link to that video is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiUBQTB8GwY>.

### **Uploading Content:**

Go to the following link and put in your username and password. Then you can start uploading: [http://www.americasstateparks.org/ambass\\_login.php](http://www.americasstateparks.org/ambass_login.php)

Once you are on that page, you will see two text boxes and a button that says "upload a file." The first is a title box where you type the name of your upload content. In the second add a description or a note to the website administrator if you have particular instructions for your content. For instance, if you upload several pictures and you want them to be in a certain order.

For uploading the actual content, you click the "upload a file" button and browse to your file. If you want to upload several files, you need to repeat the process for each piece (i.e. if you want to upload 5 pictures, you have to go in and upload each individual one). Articles should be saved as Word documents and uploaded like you would a picture.

### **Remember:**

If you want to upload an article with pictures, stay away from putting pictures in the Word document or saving the article as a pdf. Instead, upload the article as a Word document without pictures under a title (i.e. Winter Biking Tips.doc) and then post the pictures separately with the same title (i.e. Winter Biking Tips.doc Picture 1). This helps group your content together so that the website administrator can know your intention.

You can upload articles, videos, and pictures all under the same title if you want. They will be grouped together on a page.



Youth Ambassadors need to upload content every month. It can be an article, pictures, video, slideshow, etc. If you submit pictures, make sure that you add a description. Alaska State Parks strongly encourages submitting more than one entry per month.

### **Something to Consider:**

Think about how you can spread the word about the parks aside from the America's State Parks website. You can submit articles and pictures to college/campus newspapers, online magazines, or even try to get published in a magazine of your choice. Facebook and other social networks are great media in which you can share your accomplishments with friends. If you are in a club or an organization, you can involve the other club members. How else can you spread the word? If you think up any ideas, be sure to share them on the Facebook groups to help others who might need assistance figuring out how to advertise their park.

Make sure that while volunteering as a Youth Ambassador, you follow the rules of the park and not do anything unnecessarily dangerous. You are a representative of the park. All the content that you upload has to show that you are following the rules. (I.e. no tobacco products or alcohol in the background, no appendages in a brown bear's mouth, no boating without a floatation device etc.).

### **Youth Ambassador Introduction Video**

Once a new ambassador is appointed, he or she needs to create an introduction video about him or her self. The video clip only needs to be 20 - 40 seconds long. It is up to each Ambassador how they introduce themselves. The basic requirements are to introduce yourself and the state park you will be representing.

It would be ideal to film this video somewhere in your park. Below is a list of ideas as to what you can say in your video.

- Why did you become a Youth Ambassador?
- Give an example of why you would choose a particular park/what do you enjoy most about that park?
- Describe the funniest experience you have had in a state park.
- Discuss an exciting experience that you've had in a state park.
- What do you hope to accomplish as an Ambassador?
- Explain how your hobbies/ outdoor interests can be reflected in your work as an Ambassador.
- Give an example of a life goal that relates to this volunteer position.

### **Challenge:**

Occasionally (especially in the summer) America's State Parks will send out challenges (hiking challenge, camping challenge, etc.) for the Youth Ambassadors to perform. The Ambassadors can challenge each other as well or dream up other ways to get people involved.

An Alaska State Park Ambassador may also send a challenge to the national Ambassadors. These

challenges are not mandatory, but the ambassadors are strongly encouraged to participate in at least some of them. The point of the *challenge* is to provide inspiration to the park Ambassadors and to keep them involved with the parks.

***Below an Example of a Challenge from America's State Parks:***

*Hey guys! This next challenge is a really exciting challenge that I'm really looking forward to doing. It's the NO TECHNOLOGY CAMPING TRIP!!*

*This challenge will run through both May and June. The last day of the challenge will be Thursday, June 30, 2011.*

**How do you participate in this example challenge?**

1. Choose a weekend (or 2 consecutive weeknights) to go tent camping at your park in May or June.
2. Contact your park's manager, explain the Youth Ambassador Program and this challenge and arrange for two free nights to stay at the park.
  - Explain how this is a promotional event for your park and how it's purpose is to try to entice your peers to give up electronics temporarily and take advantage of what the park has to offer.
3. No electronics except for your camera gear can be used. This means no laptops, games, or cell phones. If it is a luxury or a form of electronic entertainment, it's not allowed in the challenge.
  - a. Items like compasses or GPS units may be acceptable.
  - b. Cell phones are allowed to be taken for emergency use only.
4. Record your activities throughout the trip. This demonstrates how you entertain yourself without electronics. Will you go swimming, hiking, or geocaching? Will you attend interpretive programs, clean trails, or volunteer?
  - a. If you go Geocaching, don't give away the locations of the caches. You can, however, record your experience in trying to locate them.
5. Since you're not leaving your park, remember to be prepared.
6. Invite friends! The Youth Ambassador program is trying to get youth involved with the state parks.
7. Make sure that all rules of your park are being obeyed.
8. Have pictures taken of you in your logo gear. The parks will be able to use these pictures to further endorse the program.



## ALASKA STATE PARKS VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Volunteer Job Title** Youth Ambassador

**Supervisor** (Title & Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**General Description:** Young people between the ages of 16 – 26 will capture and share their outdoor experiences. They will use technology and social media to highlight the activities, scenery, events, and moments that make the parks special. The media they use may include photography, video blogs, blogs, and their own social networks. They will network with other ambassadors within their own park and across the state and nation to promote the importance of state parks for everything from extreme adventures to everyday moments.

### Specific Duties:

- Research park events and opportunities for photo shoots or choose to make random visits.
- Visit the park and take photographs or film footage.
- Introduce yourself to park staff. Inform them that you are in their park.
- Introduce yourself as a park volunteer when photographing or videotaping people and get their written permission prior to using any footage that includes their image.
- Share your experiences on your own social networking sites.
- Let the Park Volunteer Coordinator know of updates and offer copies of what you created.
- Network with other ambassadors and follow up on opportunities to represent the park.
- Report monthly volunteer hours to Park Volunteer Coordinator.

### Qualifications:

- Knowledge of social networking sites.
- Strong interest in increasing and promoting park use and extending park programs.
- Able to work independently or on a team.
- Conscientious and Responsible

### Training:

- Orientation using Volunteer Orientation/Training Checklist.
- Basic safety and emergency procedures.
- Water safety- if necessary

**Time Commitment:** We request that you dedicate to at least 6 months to the Youth Ambassador program with a minimum of 10 hours per month.

**I will work:** ☐ 3 – 4 hours per week

☐ 4 – 6 hours per week

**For:** ☐ 1 year

☐ 6 months (summer season) (winter season)

I agree to perform the above volunteer job for the time commitment indicated. I will notify my supervisor and/or Park Volunteer Coordinator if I am unable to work my scheduled time or if my personal situation changes and I am not able to complete my agreed upon time commitment.

**Volunteer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING**

**AMERICA'S STATE PARKS YOUTH AMBASSADOR**

**HAND RECEIPT FOR DURABLE ITEM**

**Item**

1EA OLYMPUS stylus Tough-3000

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form to Gaston Rouse

E-mail: [Gaston.Rouse@dcr.Virginia.gov](mailto:Gaston.Rouse@dcr.Virginia.gov)

Fax: (703) 583-2514



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

**AMERICA'S STATE PARKS YOUTH AMBASSADOR  
VOLUNTEER WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

In return for receiving permission from America's State Parks to participate as a volunteer State Park Youth Ambassador, I agree to assume all risks of loss and injury that may arise out of my participation and I agree to waive any and all claims against America's State Parks.

I hereby release, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless America's State Parks, other participants, and anyone else involved with the volunteer program and their respective agents, representatives, officers, employees, successors, assigns and insurers, from any and all liability, claims, demands or actions or causes of action whatsoever, arising out of damage, loss or injury to my person or property, whether anticipated or unanticipated, while participating in any of the activities contemplated by this agreement, whether such damage, loss, or injury results from the negligence of the Released Parties or from some other cause. This release and agreement shall be binding upon me, and my heirs, successors, assigns, administrators and executors.

I realize that working as a volunteer State Park Youth Ambassador may involve risks and hazards, which may include, but are not limited to (1) travel, (2) working in rugged outdoor or otherwise unfamiliar terrain, (3) encounters with wildlife, (4) working alongside other volunteers who may or may not have experience with the outdoors, (5) other risks and hazards that may be described in my orientation.

I am aware of these and other risks and hazards inherent in participating as a volunteer State Park Youth Ambassador. I understand that I have the right to decline to participate in any activity that makes me feel unsafe or uncomfortable. By signing below and agreeing to participate, I hereby assume sole responsibility for all such risks and hazards.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of America's State Parks while participating as a volunteer State Park Youth Ambassador. I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and voluntarily agree to the waiver and release agreement.

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## ALASKA STATE PARKS VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY



For more information about volunteering with Alaska State Parks please go to

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Message phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Message address \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Position & area you are applying for \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) Valid driver's license, state & no. \_\_\_\_\_

Dates you are available \_\_\_\_\_ (If applying for other position, please list on separate sheet)

If volunteering for campground host, are you interested in moving to different campgrounds during your stay? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an RV or trailer? \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to work weekends? \_\_\_\_\_

Employment status: Full time \_\_\_\_\_ part time \_\_\_\_\_ unemployed \_\_\_\_\_ retired \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ May we contact your references & employers? \_\_\_\_\_

Education: high school \_\_\_\_\_ college \_\_\_\_\_

Field Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference or most recent employers	Address/phone number	Dates of employment
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1) _____		
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2) _____		
----------	--	--

3) _____		
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Other volunteer experience \_\_\_\_\_

Outdoor interests, hobbies or special training and skills\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you on medication? \_\_\_\_\_

Has any medical provider limited the scope of your physical activities? If yes, please describe the limitations?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_

***A background check may be performed on your application.***

**Please use additional sheets or include a resume if needed.**

## Alaska State Parks Supplemental Application

Only for volunteers interested in internship/school credit should fill this out.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

### Intern Program Information

If you are applying as part of an internship program with an accredited college or university please provide a copy of your college transcript (does not have to be notarized) and the following information:

Title of program/course \_\_\_\_\_

Description of program/course \_\_\_\_\_

Description of internship requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Description of supervision requirements and reports \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address

of university \_\_\_\_\_

Name of supervising professor \_\_\_\_\_ ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

College transcript - attached \_\_\_\_\_ to follow \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information about your college program \_\_\_\_\_

### Supplemental Questions

Why do you want to be a volunteer intern for Alaska State Parks? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are applying for a remote assignment, describe your backcountry camping and traveling experience

Describe your health and level of fitness \_\_\_\_\_



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First Aid Training (indicate highest level of certification) \_\_\_\_\_

CPR Certification? \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

*A background check may be performed on your application.*

**Please use additional sheets or include a resume if needed**



The undersigned enters into this Agreement with **America's State Parks**. I have been informed and understand that **America's State Parks** is producing content and that my name, likeness, image, voice, appearance and/or performance is being recorded and made a part of that production.

1. I grant **America's State Parks** and its designees the right to use my name, likeness, image, voice, appearance, and performance as embodied in the product whether recorded on or transferred to videotape, film, slides, photographs, audio tapes, or other media, now known or later developed. This grant includes without limitation the right to edit, mix or duplicate and to use or re-use the product in whole or part as **America's State Parks** may elect. **America's State Parks** or its designee shall have complete ownership of the product in which I appear, including copyright interests, and I acknowledge that I have no interest or ownership in the product or its copyright.

2. I also grant **America's State Parks** and its designees the right to broadcast, exhibit, market, sell and otherwise distribute the product, either in whole or in parts, and either alone or with other products, for commercial or non-commercial television or theater, closed-circuit exhibition, home video distribution or any other purpose that **America's State Parks** or its designees in their sole discretion may determine. This grant includes the right to use the product for promoting or publicizing any of the uses.

3. I confirm that I have the right to enter into this Agreement, that I am not restricted by any commitments to their parties, and that **America's State Parks** has no financial commitment or obligations to me as a result of this Agreement. I hereby give all clearances, copyright and otherwise, for use of my name likeness, image, voice, appearance and performance embodied in the Product. I expressly release and indemnify **America's State Parks** and its officers, employees, agents and designees from any and all claims known and unknown arising out of or in any way connected with the above granted uses and representations. The rights granted **America's State Parks** herein are perpetual and worldwide.

4. In consideration of all the above, I hereby acknowledge receipt of reasonable and fair consideration from **America's State Parks**.

I have read the foregoing and understand its terms and stipulations and agree to all of them:

Model's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Model \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If the person signing is under age 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign below.)

I hereby certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the model named above and I give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of him or her.

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## History of Alaska State Parks

“It was in 1968 that Charles Lindbergh gave a speech to the Legislature, and in that speech he urged them to protect the land,” Neil Johannsen, the longest-serving director of the Alaska State Parks, said of those early years.

That speech started the movement toward a state-managed parks system. While community members had argued since statehood in 1959 that the state should set aside some of Alaska’s best real estate, the arrival of Lindbergh at the state Capitol on March 19, 1968, helped further their efforts with lawmakers.

Lindbergh, an ardent conservationist most famous for being the first to fly solo over the Atlantic, from New York to Paris in 1927, told the joint meeting of the Alaska Senate and House that he was giving his first public address in 10 years to them because the issue of conservation—of land and animals—was so important.

“Alaska is one of the key areas of the world, as regards conservation, so what you do here is going to be watched very closely by the entire world,” he was quoted as saying in an article published in the *Juneau Alaska Empire*. “There is nothing we can do anywhere in the world”, he said, “that is more important than to protect our natural environment.”

In 1970, the Division of Parks came into being. Ted Smith was its first Director, taking the job in October of that same year. In that first year, the legislature established three state parks: Kachemak Bay, Denali and Chugach. They are the oldest and perhaps the most loved and used in the state.

Today the state park system has grown to 123 park “units,” ranging in size from the half-acre Potter Section House State Historic Site to the 1.6 million acre Wood-Tikchik State Park. Besides historic sites and state parks, the Alaska state park system also encompasses recreation areas, historic and recreation sites, historic parks, trails, marine parks, special management areas and preserves. Each unit is classified for a specific management purpose, and each, if you talk to the people instrumental in developing the areas, is critical to the state parks system as a whole.

The **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation** was established in 1970 to develop and manage the Alaska State Park system. Other programs in the Division include the Office of History and Archaeology, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Alaska Office of Boating Safety, Administration and Grants, Design and Construction, and the Alaska State Trails Program. The mission of the Division is to “*provide outdoor recreation opportunities and conserve and interpret natural, cultural and historic resources for the use, enjoyment and welfare of the people.*”

The Division operates the largest state park system in America with 123 parks, recreation areas and historic sites encompassing 3.3 million acres, and recreation facilities including campgrounds, visitor centers, picnic areas, trails, boating facilities, and public use cabins, that receive more than five million visits annually. The Division’s Area and District offices (Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, Juneau, Kodiak, and Dillingham) provide support for park management and operations. Parks are managed by park rangers, park specialists, natural resource technicians and maintenance workers; during the 2010 summer field season, 44 resource professionals serving in these job classes made sure Alaska’s parks were clean, safe and well maintained. The field staff is assisted by Alaska Conservation

Corps enrollees, and park volunteers who comprise the state's largest volunteer program. Every paid employee hour is matched by three volunteer hours.

## Summary

In conclusion, The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation appreciates the importance of the next generation of users and outdoor enthusiasts who will care for and preserve Alaska's many state parks. The Youth Ambassador Program is a valuable tool to get young people involved with their parks and build lasting skills and community contacts. If you are interested in knowing more about Alaska's fledgling Ambassador Program, and want to be in at the grassroots of getting this program up and running, please contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).